Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as shown. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims at a later date.

1 – 10 (cancelled)

11. (new) A method for granting access to a computer-based object, comprising:

providing a memory card comprising a program code processor;

allocating a public and private key to the memory card;

storing the public and private key allocated to the memory card on the memory card;

storing a public key of a trustworthy entity on the memory card;

providing license information comprising a license code encoded by the public key allocated to the memory card at an arithmetic unit that controls the access to the computer-based object;

transmitting the encoded license code and a declaration of a function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card which is digitally signed by a private key of the trustworthy entity to the memory card;

checking the digital signature of the declaration of the function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card; and

executing a function for decoding the encoded license code by the memory card and transmitting the decoded license code to the arithmetic unit if a result of the check is a valid signature,

wherein the decoded license code provides at least temporary access to the computer-based object.

12. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11,

wherein the public key of the trustworthy entity is provided and protected against manipulation at the arithmetic unit,

wherein the license information is digitally signed by the private key of the trustworthy entity, and

wherein the digital signature of the license information is checked in the arithmetic unit with the public key of the trustworthy entity.

13. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11,

wherein the license information additionally comprises the public key allocated to the memory card,

wherein the decoded license code is digitally signed by the private key allocated to the memory card, and

wherein the digital signature of the decoded license code is checked in the arithmetic unit with the aid of the public key allocated to the memory card.

14. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the declaration, digitally signed by the private key of the trustworthy entity, of the function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card is generated in the arithmetic unit from the encoded license code and a signature object which comprises only a signature portion of a function call, signed by the trustworthy entity, for decoding the encoded license code.

15. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the license information additionally comprises the signature object.

16. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the encoded license code and the declaration, digitally signed by the private key of the trustworthy entity, of the function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card is transmitted over a secure communication link from the arithmetic unit via a reading device to the memory card.

17. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the digital signature of the declaration of the function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card is checked with the public key of the trustworthy entity.

18. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11,

wherein a random number is generated in the arithmetic unit and transmitted to the memory card,

wherein the decoded license code is digitally signed by the private key allocated to the memory card and by the random number, and

wherein the digital signature of the decoded license code is checked in the arithmetic unit with the public key allocated to the memory card and with the random number.

19. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in order to grant the access to the computer-based object, the decoded license code and progress of a checking process are matched with a respective set default.

20. (new) The method as claimed in claim 11, wherein the computer-based object is selected from the group consisting of: operating system, control or application programs, services, performance features, functions or procedures provided by the operating system, access right to peripheral devices, and data located on a storage medium.

21. (new) A control program loaded into a working memory of an arithmetic unit and having a code section, comprising:

a code that transmits a license code and a declaration to a memory card,

wherein the license code is encoded by a public key allocated to the memory card comprising a program code processor, and

wherein the declaration, digitally signed by a private key of a trustworthy entity, is of a function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card;

a code that checks the digital signature of the declaration of the function for decoding the encoded license code to be executed by the memory card by the memory card; and

a code that executes a function for decoding the license code by the memory card and transmits the decoded license code to the arithmetic unit if a result of the check is a valid signature,

wherein the decoded license code provides at least temporary access to the computer-based object by the arithmetic unit.